



N 10/684,214

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	THOMAS ET AL.	Examiner:	UNKNOWN
Serial No.:	10/684,214	Group Art Unit:	UNKNOWN
Filed:	OCTOBER 10, 2003	Docket No.:	7542.211US01
Title:	IMPROVED HANDS-FREE TOWEL DISPENSER WITH EMF CONTROLLER		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 20, 2004.

By:  
Name:

*Kristine A. Warch*  
*Kristine A. Warch*

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2), a copy of each foreign patent document and other document listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is enclosed; and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i), a copy of all U.S. patents and U.S. patent publications listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are not provided, as this application was filed after June 30, 2003. Applicants first became aware of the LaCour Systems brochure in June, 2000.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

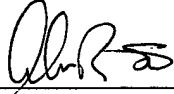
Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

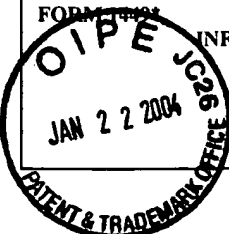
Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

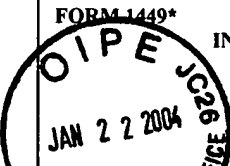
Date: 1/20/2004

  
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Alan R. Stewart  
Reg. No. 47,974  
ARS:PLSkaw

	<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>  <b>IN AN APPLICATION</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)		Docket Number: 7542.211US01	Application Number: 10/684,214
			Applicant: THOMAS ET AL.	
			Filing Date: 10/10/2003	Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN


U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	1,108,855	08/25/1914	Simons			
	1,716,812	06/11/1929	Ball			
	2,299,626	10/20/1942	Hunt			
	2,703,681	03/08/1955	Jacobs			
	2,726,823	12/13/1955	Jespersen			
	2,905,405	09/22/1959	Burton et al.			
	3,084,006	04/02/1963	Roemer			
	3,085,762	04/16/1963	Subklew			
	3,126,234	03/24/1964	Batlas et al.			
	3,211,504	10/12/1965	Bump			
	3,214,014	10/26/1965	Perrin			
	3,294,329	12/27/1966	Tucker et al.			
	3,381,909	05/07/1968	Tucker et al.			
	3,387,902	06/11/1968	Perrin et al.			
	3,433,355	03/18/1969	Smith			
	3,437,388	04/08/1969	Jespersen			
	3,438,589	04/15/1969	Jespersen			
	3,647,159	03/07/1972	Bump			
	3,650,487	03/21/1972	Bahnsen			
	3,730,409	05/01/1973	Ratti			
	3,971,607	07/27/1976	Schnyder			
	4,108,513	08/22/1978	Lander			
	4,108,547	08/22/1978	Stemmle			
	4,119,255	10/10/1978	D'Angelo			
	4,131,044	12/26/1978	Cassia			
	4,165,138	08/21/1979	Hedge et al.			

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	

<b>FORM 1449*</b> 	<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>	
	<b>IN AN APPLICATION</b>	
	(Use several sheets if necessary)	
Docket Number: 7542.211US01	Application Number: 10/684,214	
Applicant: THOMAS ET AL.		
Filing Date: 10/10/2003	Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN	

	4,195,787	04/01/1980	Thomason			
	4,398,310	08/16/1983	Lienhard			
	4,522,346	06/11/1985	Jespersen			
	4,557,426	12/10/1985	Siciliano			
	4,666,099	05/19/1987	Hoffman et al.			
	4,738,176	04/19/1988	Cassia			
	4,765,555	08/23/1988	Gambino			
	4,796,825	01/10/1989	Hawkins			
	4,826,262	05/02/1989	Hartman et al.			
	4,903,909	02/27/1990	Suzuki			
	4,944,464	07/31/1990	Zelenka			
	4,960,248	10/02/1990	Bauer et al.			
	5,031,258	07/16/1991	Shaw			
	5,060,323	10/29/1991	Shaw			
	5,086,526	02/11/1992	Van Marcke			
	5,131,302	07/21/1992	Watanabe			
	5,217,035	06/08/1993	Van Marcke			
	5,236,141	08/17/1993	Kewin			
	5,294,192	03/15/1994	Omdoll et al.			
	5,310,129	05/10/1994	Whittington et al.			
	5,356,086	10/18/1994	Takagi			
	5,452,832	09/26/1995	Niada			
	5,605,001	02/25/1997	Derk			
	5,636,812	06/10/1997	Conner et al.			
	5,749,538	05/12/1998	Brown et al.			
	5,772,291	06/30/1998	Byrd et al.			
	5,829,713	11/03/1998	Kewin			
	5,833,169	11/10/1998	Morand			
	6,056,261	05/02/2000	Aparicio et al.			

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Applicant: THOMAS ET AL.		
Filing Date: 10/10/2003		Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN

	6,069,354	05/30/2000	Alfano et al.			
	6,105,898	08/22/2000	Byrd et al.			
	6,293,486	09/25/2001	Byrd et al.			
	6,302,352 B1	10/16/2001	Applegate			
	6,386,479 B1	05/14/2002	Lewis et al.			
	6,412,655	07/02/2002	Stuetzel et al.			
	6,412,679	07/02/2002	Formon et al.			
	2002/0088837	07/11/2002	Formon et al.			
	6,419,136	07/16/2002	Formon et al.			
	6,491,251 B1	12/10/2002	Stanland et al.			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
✓	36 03 638 A1	08/13/1987	DE				
✓	37 06 229 A1	03/24/1988	DE				
✓	2649603	01/18/1991	FR				X
✓	2 245 882 A	01/15/1992	GB				
✓	2 247 623 A	03/11/1992	GB				
✓	8602194	03/16/1988	NL				X
✓	WO 90/09755	09/07/1990	PCT			Abstract	
✓	WO 99/58040	11/18/1999	PCT			Abstract	

**OTHER DOCUMENTS** (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	LaCour Systems, Inc. <i>ille Toweltronic</i> brochure, undated. (1 pg.)

**23552**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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